

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-APRIL 25,2005

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:34 p.m. in the council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Blair seconded to approve the minutes of April 6, 2005.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of April 11, 2005.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the minutes of April 13, 2005 as corrected. Town Clerk noted Mr. Paulhus was in error placed twice in voting on item #13. He voted against tabling issue of Eminent Domain Authorization-Separatist Road Easement and Redding voted in favor.

So passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence for persons in uniform serving in Iran.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Carol Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road, spoke as Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, and read a letter regarding the renovation of the Reynolds School as an alternative facility for at risk students from E. O. Smith. See attached letter.

Charles Eaton, 89 Lorraine Drive, read a letter regarding revaluation and the proposed budget. He urged a cut back in the budget. See attached letter.

Richard Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road, spoke on the budget and for a friend who has built a home on East Road. He is a teacher and teaches in the evening. He said to Mr. Pellegrine that he could not stay in town unless the tax rate was only 16 or 17 mills. With the revaluation he cannot afford a high mill rate.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Committee on Community Quality of Life-Committee Report

Mr. Clouette, as Chairman of the Committee, discussed the objectives of the committee and observations of the committee with a series of recommended goals and strategies that the town could pursue to improve the present situation. The disruptive behavior of persons at the University of Connecticut's spring weekend has created a problem for the quality of life in Town. This report gives recommended strategies. However, some issues the town has little control over such as sub standard housing. The committee consisted of myself, Alan Hawkins and Alison Whitham-Blair. Mr. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager presented many good suggestions.

Mr. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager thanked the committee for their work and also for the public participation including Mr. Robert Cook a local resident. The Mayor and Council member Helen Koehn were also active in this report. He listed the goals the committee prepared which were geared toward correcting the problem of disruptive behavior associated with spring weekend and other large parties.

Mr. Richard Pellegrine, 269 Clover Mill Road, spoke on his observations of this year's Spring Weekend. Although there seemed to be less kegs in sight he noted that many more individuals were bringing in their own beer. He suggested that a responsible person who could better monitor individual consumption dispense alcohol.

At 8:10 p.m. the public hearing closed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

-
-

2. Committee on Community Quality of Life-Committee Report

Mayor Paterson thanked the Committee chair, the committee members and staff for their work on this important issue. No action was needed. Following this public hearing the committee would receive any feedback that the Council may have. The committee also plans to contact the University to schedule a public presentation on campus in the late summer early fall. Once all comments have been received the committee will report back to the Council, and then may authorize to produce a final report.

3. Eminent Domain Authorization-Separatist Road Easements

The Town Manager requested that this issue be tabled again as he hopes to have a resolution shortly.

By consensus this was tabled.

4. FY 2005/06 Proposed Budget

Will be discussed at end of agenda.

5. University Spring Weekend and Campus Community Relations

Discussion followed on Council members observations of the weekend activities.

The Mayor reported that she had just attended a meeting with the Substance Abuse Task Force”

The feeling of the students present at the committee meeting was that they were positive about the DUI checkpoints, the medical service, that they didn't feel as threatened, and that the attitude of most students was better.

Many people involved with the weekend stated the professionalism and compassion of the medical and emergency personnel. The Council members felt that lots of things went right this year.

Mr. Hawkins said that although the emergency services were good for the weekend, they are always that way all through the year.

Mr. Haddad felt that the DUI checkpoints were a great addition to the weekend and very worthwhile

Mr. Paulhus felt that the DUI checkpoints kept out of towners out of the University campus.

Mr. Clouette said this year the media couldn't show a lot of photos of riots so they kept running tapes of previous years.

Mr. Chip Jordan, Eagleville Fire Chief, said although the weekend went smoother there is still a continued increase in medical needs. The students and persons gathered at these parties are still getting hurt. On Friday night there were 76 personnel on duty.

Mr. Mike Gergler, President of Eagleville Vol. Fire Association was also present, and spoke of the emergency care that was needed. All staff worked hard.

Ms. Koehn asked the fire chiefs if they felt the residents of Mansfield were covered adequately if they had an emergency. Both chiefs said that the town was covered, as the residents are of primary concern to their departments.

Ms. Blair worked the weekend as an emergency personnel. She said the students this year were easier to work with and were thankful for assistance.

Fire Chief Jordan said that there would be a critique of the weekend on May 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagleville Fire House. The council members are invited to attend.

6. Strategic Planning Project Update

Mr. Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, gave an oral report to the Council. He has contacted the "Balance Scorecard Institute in N. C." and the town is in the process of receiving a proposal from them. The staff is again working on this project and plans are to conduct a retreat on the "balance scorecard". This phrase means to "to link visions into goals". Mr. Hart will report back to Council in May.

6A. Added by consensus "Smart Energy"

Mr. Hart reported that the town has not heard from the people at "Smart Energy" as to how the town can participate in this project. He will report as information is received.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

7. Resolution Regarding Earth Day

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Clouette seconded that effective April 25, 2005, to issue the attached resolution regarding Earth Day.

Motion so passed. Mr. Schaefer abstained.

8. Proclamation in Honor of Women's Health Day

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded that effective April 25, 2005, to authorize the mayor to issue the Proclamation in Honor of Women.

So passed unanimously.

9. Appointment of Town Council Designee to Mansfield Downtown

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that effective April 25, 2005, to appoint Town Manager Martin H. Berliner to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership's Board of Directors for a term beginning on July 1, 2005 and ending on June 30, 2008.

So passed unanimously.

10. Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to pass the following resolution:

RESOLVED: effective April 25, 2005, that Martin H. Berliner, Town Manager, is empowered to execute and to deliver in the name of and on behalf of this municipality, an application and contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

So passed unanimously.

11. Transfer of Uncollected Taxes to Property Tax Suspense List

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Haddad seconded that, effective April 25, 2005, to transfer \$61,430.83 in outstanding property taxes to the Mansfield Property Tax Suspense List, as recommended by the collector of revenue.

So passed unanimously.

12. Request for Proposals for Technical Assistance-Cities Supporting Parents of Young Children

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Blair seconded that effective April 25, 2005, to authorize staff to submit a response to the National League of Cities' request for proposals to obtain technical assistance to promote: 1), initiatives to connect families with early childhood resources; and (2) efforts to establish or expand family-friendly workplace policies.

So passed unanimously.

13. School Readiness Grant Application

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, effective April 25, 2005, to authorize Martin H. Berliner, Town Manager, to submit an application to the Connecticut Department of Education seeking \$107,000 in school readiness funding, and to execute any related grant documents and materials.

So passed unanimously.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Clouette reported that he had attended the Town/Gown meeting. At the meeting the group heard comments of Dolly Whitham who is concerned about the use of the Yellow Barn on Route 195. The University feels that it will be committed to maintaining the building, however its' use will be determined by the University. The Town/Gown Committee talked about preparations for Spring Weekend. They also discussed the facility needs of the Heart Program on campus on Gilbert Road. No decision as to where the program will be housed when the house where the program is housed at present, is demolished.

Mr. Paulhus attended the League of Women Voters meeting where Denise Merrill, State Representative spoke on the State Budget.

Ms. Alison Blair invited everyone to attend a benefit concert at EO Smith H. S on the April 29 at 7:00 p.m. for the benefit of the March of Dimes. The cost for a ticket is \$5.00.

Ms. Redding inquired about the procedures used by the Assessment Appeals Board. She inquired if all members of the board were evaluating at the same rate. The Town Manager explained that all three members had been trained on the proper assessment procedures and evaluation.

Returned to Old Business

4. FY 2005/06 Proposed Budget

The Town Manager and Director of Finance presented the Council with a memo with suggested reductions in the budget. The Council by consensus made cuts with a total of \$458,000 from all three parts of the budget, which would reflect a 2.9% increase. :

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded that the Capital Fund Budget, appended totaling \$3,315,500 is hereby adopted as the capital improvements to be undertaken during fiscal year 2005/06 or later years.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that the Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$1,832,840 be adopted.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded that the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$28,792,740 is hereby adopted as the proposed operating budget for the Town of Mansfield for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded that the attached Appropriations Act be recommended for adoption at the annual Town Meeting for budget consideration:

See attachment

So passed unanimously.

XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Tim Quinn and Ms. Sheila Quinn have extended the trail to the canoe launch area behind the Reynolds School on Depot Road

The 2004 Water Supply Plan is in the process of being reviewed by staff and to the Town's water consultants.

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership would like a joint meeting with the Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Suggested date for the presentation is May 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Rosal's Restaurant has now been reopened as Topsy's.

The DEP approved the as-built plan for the Mansfield Solid Waste Disposal Area located on Route 89. The Town will continue to inspect the disposal area on a regular basis.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

XIII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

14. Mansfield Plan of Conservation and Development Update, 3/10/05 Draft Schedule
15. D. Merrill re: Full Day Kindergarten
16. E. Paterson re: An Act Concerning Liability for Use of An Automatic External Defibrillator
17. M. Hart re: University of Connecticut Spring Weekend
18. Connecticut Department of Transportation re: Federal Highway Safety Program
19. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: Mansfield Solid Waste Disposal Area
20. University of Connecticut, Total University Including Health Center, By Connecticut Town of Origin and Campus, Fall 2004
21. Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Council, "The Spring 2005 Snapshot to the Windham COG"
22. Eastern CT State University, April 30, 2005 Fireworks Display
23. University of Connecticut HEART Program, Profile
24. Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission, Application Referral
25. The Green Valley Institute, 2004 Annual Report
26. Joshua's Trust Newsletter, "More Protection for Scenic Mansfield Road"
27. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, State Budget Update

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk